

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY (PER SECRETARY/ATHERTON TELECON)

S/S:MR SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 182823 TOSEC 190084

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE, US

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. WE HAVE NOW HAD WORD BACK FROM EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS THAT THEY HAVE CONTACTED PLO LEADERSHIP URGING ITS COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THE EVACUATION. ON SATURDAY YOU SHOULD, THEREFORE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AND ASK HIM TO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO THE PLO; YOU SHOULD ALSO ARRANGE TO CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS TO PLO DIRECTLY THROUGH YOUR SECURITY CONTACT, COORDINATING WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SO THAT YOUR SECURITY OFFICER'S CONTACT FOLLOWS HIS:

A. WE INTEND TO PROCEED WITH THE EVACUATION THIS COMING TUESDAY, JULY 27.

B. WE ARE PREPARED TO CARRY OUT THE EVACUATION EITHER BY
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ROAD CONVOY TO DAMASCUS OR BY SEA AS WAS DONE LAST TIME,

WHICHEVER THE PLO PREFERS. WE WANT TO MAKE THE POINT IN THIS CONNECTION THAT EVACUATION BY SEA DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVE THE COOPERATION OF ANY ONE OTHER THAN THE PLO AND THEREFORE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS, OF THE KIND THE PLO MENTIONED IN YOUR PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH THEM AS COMPLICATING FACTORS, ARE IN FACT IRRELEVANT AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE U.S.

C. EVACUATION ON THIS COMING TUESDAY IS ALREADY A WEEK LATER THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED, AND THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER DELAY.

2. FYI: IF THERE IS ANY REPETITION OF SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PLO THAT THEIR COOPERATION IS IN ANY WAY DEPENDENT UPON CONDITIONS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SECURITY OF THE EVACUATION, WE WANT TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO SUCH A DISCUSSION. YOU SHOULD HOLD STRICTLY TO THE LINE THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT REDUCING THE SIZE OF OUR EMBASSY AND COMMUNITY, AS OTHERS HAVE ALREADY DONE, BECAUSE OF INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT, THAT THE ONLY RELEVANT CONSIDERATION IS MAKING THE MOST SECURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVACUATION, AND THAT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PRESENT PROBLEMS IN THE SECURITY SITUATION WHICH WOULD PREVENT OUR GOING FORWARD AS PLANNED ON TUESDAY. IT IS NECESSARY TO BE ABSOLUTELY FIRM ON THIS AND TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE DETERMINED TO COMPLETE THE EVACUATION ON THIS NEW SCHEDULE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. END FYI. ROBINSON

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